

EXPLANATION OF EUROPEAN CRISIS IS HARD TO FIND

Diplomats and Observers Unable to Understand the Attitude of Austria.

RECENTLY STRONG FOR PEACE

Count Berchtold, Only a Few Weeks Ago, Bitterly Criticized the War Party, and His Change of Front Has Not as Yet Been Explained.

"Confusion worse confounded" is the one phrase that aptly characterizes the war situation in Europe. The leading newspapers and the most experienced observers are unable to agree on any explanation of the crisis. And the reason is not far to seek.

Only a few weeks ago the foreign minister of Austria, Count Berchtold, was earnestly defending the pacific and moderate policy he had been pursuing toward the Balkans and Russia.

Berchtold for Peace. In a speech to the delegates at Budapest he vigorously answered criticisms of spokesmen of the war party, particularly of a delegate who was supposed to be expressing the sentiments of the then heir presumptive, the late Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Count Berchtold spoke of the aged emperor's sincere and resolute devotion to peace; he gave arguments of his own, moreover, in support of a policy of patience and peace.

Feared Loss of Prestige. The frankness and directness of that speech impressed everybody except those who feared that Austria might be accused of timidity and weakness, might be misunderstood and in consequence might lose political and military prestige.

There were some among these who thought, moreover, that Russia, whose recuperative power was wonderful—whatever might be said of its efficiency and actual strength when pitted against a more civilized and free power—was getting too mighty and too confident, and was enjoying too much opportunity for rehabilitation and consolidation of its financial and military-naval resources.

These vaguely favored a bold and aggressive policy even at the risk of war, which had better come sooner than later, they held.

Sweden Takes Up Cry. But Count Berchtold's view prevailed for the moment and excellent observers concluded that Austria, at any rate, was not going to add to the troubles, complications and dangers of Europe by tempting fortune.

At that very moment Sweden was excitedly discussing "the Russian peril" and demanding new measures of defense, while a section of the German press was pointing to the "bear that walks like a man" as the foe to reckon with in the near future.

Yet the peace of Europe is broken not by Russia, not by a Balkan power desirous of revising the settlement imposed by Roumania and the concert of Europe at the Bucharest conference, but by Austria, and seemingly under Count Berchtold's direction.

What has happened in the short interval? If peace was necessary a few weeks ago, why is war inevitable today?

To understand the situation it is essential to distinguish between glittering generalities, fanciful aspirations, literature and rhetoric, on the one hand, and hard, grim, concrete facts on the other. It is essential to know what the conflict is not. It is not a war between Teuton and Slav. It is not a war between the Pan-German world party and the Pan-Slav world party. It is not a war for the preservation of Hapsburg monarchy.

Move Is Anti-Austrian.

The Pan-German movement is anti-Servian and cannot fail to be so. The success of that movement would destroy Austria as a political entity. The Pan-German extremists have had to be rebuked and repudiated by responsible German statesmen. As allies of Austria they could not countenance a movement which assumed and labored for the disruption and disappearance of Austria.

The Pan-Slav movement in Russia is manifestly anti-Austrian, as well as anti-German. It dreams of Slav rule "from the Adriatic sea to the Pacific ocean." It dreams of Slav union or confederation under the gentle and benevolent sovereignty of Russia.

Czar's Interest in Serbia.

Pan-Slavism is, however, in a limited sense, unmistakably in evidence in the czar's profound interest in Serbia and Montenegro. The czar's ministers have often blundered in the Balkans and have at times caused strange

TO LEAD SERVIAN ARMY



Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia, who made a gallant record during the Balkan war, will lead his battle-scarred veterans against the Austrians.

ment, gravitation toward Germany, bitter feeling against Russia. But the blunders were personal blunders of bungling politicians. Russia has always posed and often acted as the patron, friend, and protector of the Slavs everywhere, and especially of the Balkan Slavs. It has had and still has its eye on its "estate in reversion," Constantinople, and it cannot hope to plant its flag there without the consent and support of the Balkan Slavs. It is good "Pan-Slavism" to support Serbia.

But in facing Austria, Russia confronts not a German power, but a power that is itself largely Slav. Slav will thus be fighting Slav and the Germans, whatever their colors, will be fighting for Slavs and with other Slavs and postponing the realization of the Pan-German ambitions and dreams.

Jealousy a Great Factor. Here, then, is a strange paradox, but not the only paradox in a situation full of anomalies—anomalies inseparable from the very nature and complexion of the Austro-Hungarian empire, an empire, to repeat, that has been held together quite as much by the jealousies and differences of outsiders as by the dynastic and personal influence of the Hapsburgs.

If Austria cannot and does not represent German interests and German culture in this fight, what is it fighting for? Pan-Servian agitation did not endanger its existence, while the war does. Its own Slav elements at no time displayed an inclination to exchange its rule for that of the czar, although they were not averse to using Pan-Slav slogans in order to secure better representation and larger recognition.

Danger to Dual Monarchy.

The opinion of the soundest students of politics has long been that if Austria-Hungary was to be preserved, only a policy of peace, liberalism, greater autonomy, and home rule, conciliation of the various races and elements by reform measures, political and social contained the promise of such preservation.

The war actually endangers the existence of the dual monarchy; for aside from the chances of defeat and disaster, there is the fact that the Slav subjects of the emperor cannot sympathize with it. The separatist and particularist tendencies feared by the court and government can only be deepened and strengthened by the conflict.

The army and navy may be loyal and obedient, as many assert. The army and navy may be "Austrian," if the nation is not. But popular sentiment is a potent factor in war and popular sentiment among the Austrian and Hungarian Slavs does not favor fratricidal strife.

No wonder the intelligent world is puzzled and utterly at a loss to explain Austria's course.

SERVIANS FIGHT IN DESIRE FOR NATIONAL UNITY

Diplomats of World Have Long Foreseen That Struggle Was Bound to Come.

STANDS IN WAY OF AUSTRIA

Dream of Statesmen of Dual Monarchy Has Been to Acquire Salonika and the Land Between That Port and Frontier of Bosnia.

While the immediate cause of Austria-Hungary's attack on Serbia is the demand for reparation for the murder of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, the duchess of Hohenberg, the ultimate causes are the movement of the Hapsburg empire toward the south and the desperate efforts of the entire Serb race to regain complete national existence.

Ever since the repulse of the Turkish army from Vienna in 1683 the Austrians have steadily fought their way southward, expecting ultimately to make their way to the Aegean over the ruins of the Turkish empire. Austria, like Russia, was not unwilling to see small buffer states set up to occupy the middle ground during the intervals of rest in her forward movement, and so—most of the Balkan states of today came into being.

Of the Servian race, which in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries ruled a vast empire, extending over the western half of the Balkan peninsula and the eastern coast of the Adriatic, practically all had come under Turkish domination in the sixteenth century. The Serbs of the hinterland of Istria and Dalmatia were soon taken from Turkey by Austria, and Montenegro won its independence. This left the Serbs of Bosnia, the Herzegovina and Servia proper, as well as of the Sanjak of Novi Bazar and Northern Macedonia, still under Turkish rule.

The Serbs of the present kingdom became autonomous in 1830, but re-

stable for the ruling of the powers, which compelled the Servians to give up part of their conquests in Albania. Thus Serbia lost her chance to get a seaport and remains a landlocked power, her only outlet being through the friendly Greek ports on the Aegean sea.

But the Servian victories in Macedonia, and the Greek capture of Salonika put an unexpected obstacle in the way of Austria's march to the south. No more could the dual monarchy hope to inherit Salonika and the land between that port and the frontier of Bosnia on the final downfall of Turkey; Serbia was now squarely across her path.

So the Balkan wars left the Servians confident of their military ability, elated by victory, determined on complete national unity, and angered by Austria's continued hold on the northern part of the nation and by her action in depriving the nation of an outlet to the sea. These wars left Austria Hungary with increased difficulties in dealing with the Slav tribes, particularly the Servians, now in her dominions, and convinced that the march to the southward must be given up altogether unless Serbia could be put out of the way.

To this were added minor irritations, such as the railroad question in Macedonia. The Servians wanted to add the railroads in the territory conquered from Turkey to the state system, but the stockholders, most of whom were Austrians or Hungarians, objected. Moreover, there was constant friction in Bosnia, and the party in Serbia which regretted the break-up of the Balkan league was inclined to attribute the discord between Bulgaria and her former allies to the operations of Austrian diplomacy.

Thirty years ago Serbia was a cat-paw for Austria in Balkan schemes, with Russia backing Bulgaria, but now the Servians can count on Russian sympathy, for their cause is indirectly the cause of the entire Slav race in its double struggle to be free from German rule and to fight with the Germans for the heritage of Constantinople.

Peter Made King by Tragedy.

King Peter, under whose rule Serbia has advanced to a strong position in southeastern Europe, came to the throne as the result of a crime that shocked the world.

Eleven years ago King Alexander of Serbia and Queen Draga were assassinated in their palace at Belgrade. Half an hour after midnight on June

CONSERVATION OF MOISTURE

Surface of Soil Must Be Kept Loose to Take Care of Rain as Rapidly as It Descends.

(By W. H. STEVENSON. Copyright, 1914.)

From two hundred and seventy-five to six hundred tons of water are required to produce one ton of dry matter for most of our common farm crops. In many portions of the United States the rainfall during the growing months is not sufficient to supply these large amounts of water to the crops. This fact lays stress upon two things—namely, the importance of large water supplies in the soil not as stagnant water, but as capillary water, which is for the most part available for growing plants, and also the importance of the conservation of this soil water.

The first step in conserving soil moisture is to have and keep the surface of the soil in such condition that most of the rainfall will be received into it and will be carried by gravitation to the lower zones, where the water supply is held until later called into use. Whenever the surface of the soil is baked or run together and impervious it is practically certain that a large portion of every rain will not get into the soil, but is lost because of surface drainage. An effort should be made to hold the rains of the entire year, those of the fall and winter and early spring as well as those of the growing season. In order to accomplish this the surface of the soil must be kept loose and open so that as rapidly as rain falls it may be taken into the upper soil from whence it can work downward to the great storehouse beneath.

Fall plowing helps to put the surface in condition to take up the rainfall. The hardened crust is broken, and water enters freely. Moreover, the ridges and hollows of the plowed surface act as basins, which hold snow and rain until they soak into the soil. Early spring plowing and disking also play an important part in putting the surface soil in condition to retain and take in a maximum amount of water.

The second step in soil moisture conservation is to save the water which has entered the soil. This can best be done by cultivation. The reason is this—water is carried from the lower zones of the soil by capillarity. It rises in the soil from soil particle to soil particle, and finally it reaches the surface of the soil and is lost by evaporation unless the upward movement is checked by some agency. Now, cultivation creates this agency—namely, a soil mulch. The principle of moisture conservation by mulches is well established. There is no practical method for saving soil moisture except by the use of the mulch.

IMMENSE COST OF BAD ROADS

Estimate of \$7,500,000 Is Made by Highway Commissioner of Ohio—Cost of Hauling.

Bad roads cost the United States \$7,500,000 per annum is the reported estimate of the highway commissioner of Ohio, according to the Engineering and Mining Journal. He figures that the average cost of hauling one ton one mile on a good, hard road is eight cents, while the present average cost is 23 cents, and in some districts it is as high as 54 cents. There is no doubt respecting the economy of good roads, but such estimating as the commissioner's offers no account of the capital outlay necessary to get the roads. If the latter be built under the auspices and in the ways that have prevailed in the state of New York, there may be a loss of money, instead of a saving. The matter is one of great importance wherein wagon transportation is a high charge on the production under present conditions, and where auto trucks can offer but little help until the roads are improved.

Mulch for Potatoes.

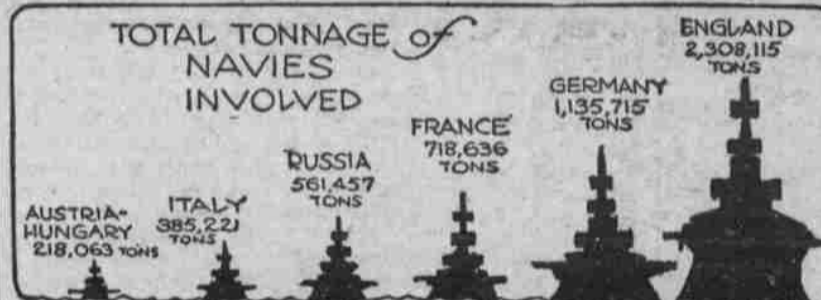
Irish potatoes grown under a mulch produced about forty-five cent more than the same acreage given ordinary culture at the Nebraska experiment station. The mulch was four to five inches of straw of any kind or hay or leaves. Of course, no cultivation whatever was given. The mulching of these potatoes cost less than would the cultivation, yet the mulching heavily increased the yield.

Drought Resistant Crop.

Rape resists drought fairly well, but as a rule it is best to sow seed early enough to get the plants well started before dry weather sets in, as during a long dry period the plants are often attacked by a kind of plant louse which causes them to wilt and become valueless as a forage.

Size of Chicks.

Poultry keepers often wonder at the difference in size sometimes shown in a flock of chicks hatched from good stock on both sides. This is the case in most hatchings, but it is usually just one or two, and the cause is generally hard to find.



voiced in 1876-78, aiming at complete freedom. With them joined their kinsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Russo-Turkish war, which followed, made great changes in the Balkans. Serbia proper obtained complete independence, but Bosnia and Herzegovina were left nominal Turkish dependencies, but really to be occupied by Austrian troops.

Austria's Seizure of Bosnia.

The consequence of this was a four-year insurrection against the Austrians, the effects of which have never disappeared. The Austrians have spent large amounts of money on the country, but never allowed it autonomy; and in 1908-9, using as an excuse the constitutional revolution in Turkey, which would require delegates to the Turkish parliament to come from these two states, which were actually in Austrian hands, the Hapsburg monarchy formally annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina. Germany backed up her ally, and the protests of the Slav powers did not go to the extent of war. Meanwhile the Slavs of Dalmatia are under Hungarian rule; and here, as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, promises of local self-government have never come to anything more than words. Thus the northern half of the Servian race is still under the Austrian empire.

Meanwhile the southern half was finally united by the victories over Turkey in the war of 1912. Not only did this reconquest by the Servians of the core of their old empire in western Macedonia give a tremendous impulse to the longing for complete national unity; it showed the Servian nation that its military organization could be relied on for hard work.

In the fall of 1912 the Servians mobilized 260,000 men in the first three weeks, and later added 145,000 more to the number; and while their losses in this war and in the struggle with Bulgaria in the summer of 1913 were heavy, the Servian troops fought brilliantly and proved themselves efficient and enduring.

Robbed of Fruits of Victory.

But the fruits of this war were in part taken from them by Austria, whose diplomatic activity was respon-

10, 1903, forty army officers entered the palace, burst into the apartments of the king and queen and killed them. Details of the tragedy vary, but the best authenticated is that the couple died in each other's arms. The same night several ministers were slain by the plotters. The total number of victims of the conspiracy is said to have been fifty-four.

At the time of the tragedy King Peter was in Geneva, living a secluded life, and, apparently, taking little interest in the politics of his native land. Ever since the terrible night of the assassinations he has denied that he had any foreknowledge of them. Nevertheless, suspicion has continued, justly or unjustly, to rest upon him, and it was some years after his accession to the throne before Great Britain and other powers recognized him formally as king of Serbia.

King Peter as a young man led an adventurous life. He studied in Switzerland and then went to the French Military academy at St. Cyr. He took part in the Franco-German war as an officer of the Foreign legion.

For many years he is said to have engaged in conspiracies against King Milan of Serbia, but for forty-five years he never set foot on Servian soil until he was elected king by the Servian parliament.

New Capital Easier to Defend.

Kragujevac, to which King Peter has moved his court from Belgrade, is about fifty miles due south of Semendria, on the Danube, and about sixty-five miles south-southeast of Belgrade. It lies on a branch spur of railroad about fifteen miles from the main line to Salonika and Constantinople, and is well adapted to defense. It is the third town in size in the old kingdom of Serbia, with about 20,000 people. Its only superiors are Belgrade and Nisch.

The town was the first capital of the principality of Serbia, after its partial liberation from the Turks, serving as the seat of the Obrenovitch princes from 1815 to 1842. After that the family of Karageorgievitch occupied the throne from 1842 to 1858, the Obrenovitchs again from 1858 to 1903, and the Karageorgievitchs since